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THE SECRETARY OF STATE  
WASHINGTON

June 13, 2007

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SENATE ARMED SERVICES  
COMMITTEE  
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Dear Mr. Chairman:

Thank you for your letter inquiring about the benchmarks that the Government of Iraq set for itself last fall.

As you mentioned, I sent to you a letter in January in which I noted that Iraq's Political Committee on National Security agreed upon a set of benchmarks and an associated timeline, which were reaffirmed by the Iraqi Presidency Council in October 2006.

We have confirmed with Iraqi President Talabani's Chief of Staff that the benchmarks were formally approved last fall by the Iraqi Political Committee on National Security. This committee includes the Presidency Council – the President and the two Vice Presidents – as well as the leaders of all the major political blocs in Iraq. The Iraqi Presidency Council then posted the benchmarks on its website for several months.

Thank you for your interest in this issue. Please feel free to contact us on this or any matter of concern to you.

Sincerely,

  
Condoleezza Rice

The Honorable  
Carl Levin, Chairman,  
Committee on Armed Services,  
United States Senate.